

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

(Text after linguistic revision)

COM(78) 313 final./2

Brussels, 3 July 1978

RECOMMENDATION FOR A COUNCIL DECISION

authorising the Commission to open negotiations with Greece
with a view to re-introducing into the Agreement creating an
association between the EEC and Greece, provisions permitting
both parties to take safeguard measures in order to remedy
economic difficulties

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

RECOMMENDATION
FOR A COUNCIL DECISION

authorising the Commission to open negotiations with Greece with a view to re-introducing into the Agreement creating an association between the EEC and Greece, provisions permitting both parties to take safeguard measures in order to remedy economic difficulties

1. Article 68 of the Athens Agreement, which constitutes the general safeguard clause, has lapsed since 1970, the end of the Community's transitional period. In view of the freeze in EEC/Greece relations at this time, the Community did not take advantage of the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article 68 which would have allowed the validity of this Article to be extended by common agreement. The Community has already tried in vain to rectify this anomaly during the negotiation of the supplementary EEC/Greece protocol in 1975.
2. Moreover, in the context of the accession negotiations, the Council advocates a transitional safeguard provision analogous to Article 135 of the Act of Accession of 1972, and remains firm in spite of Greek reticence in this respect.
3. The reactivation of the Agreement's Safeguard clause coincides neatly with the proposal described above for the accession and provides for a return to normality. On the other hand, in the absence of such a provision, the Community has great difficulty in resolving with Greece certain economic problems which arise in the textile sector. Greece is the only country for which there are no general safeguard provisions. Even in the case of Turkey, which enjoys an associate status broadly identical to that of Greece, there is a general safeguard clause with no provision for expiry.
4. As a result the Commission considers it necessary to open negotiations with Greece as a matter of urgency, with a view to reintroducing general safeguard provisions in the Athens Agreement permitting both parties to take appropriate measures in cases of economic difficulty. The Commission therefore recommends that the Council authorises it to open such negotiations within the Association Council, and to adopt accordingly the decision of which the draft is annexed.

RECOMMENDATION FOR A
COUNCIL DECISION

authorising the Commission to open negotiations with Greece with a view to re-introducing into the Agreement creating an Association between the EEC and Greece, provisions permitting both parties to take safeguard measures in order to remedy economic difficulties

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 238 thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation of the Commission,

Whereas the Agreement creating an Association between the European Economic Community and Greece, signed at Athens on 9 July 1961, no longer contains a general safeguard clause,

Whereas this absence of a safeguard clause constitutes an anomaly, and whereas the present provisions of the Agreement do not enable the Community to deal with current difficulties in several of its economic sectors,

Whereas it is therefore appropriate to negotiate with Greece safeguard provisions to be re-introduced in the Athens Agreement,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

The Commission is hereby authorized to open negotiations with Greece within the Association Council with a view to re-introducing into the Agreement creating an Association between the European Economic Community and Greece, provisions permitting both parties to take safeguard measures in order to remedy economic difficulties.

The Commission shall conduct its negotiations in consultation with the representatives of the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

THE COUNCIL
(The President)